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Colorado Economic Recovery Accountability Board Meeting Summary July 24, 2009 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

MEETING DATE

July 24, 2009 The Lyceum at the Center for Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College Durango, CO

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

A. Board Members:

Don Elliman (chair), Senator Moe Keller, Ray Baker, Taryn Edwards, Sandy Gutierrez, Tony Hernandez, Secretary of State Bernie Buescher, Admiral Richard Truly, André Pettigrew, Bob Gibson

R. Guests

Troy Ralstin, Corky Kyle, Nancy Shanks, Mike Burns, Carolyn Hunter, Dawn Farrington, Chloe Wiebe, Nik Kendiorski, Ken Francis, Gary Linn, Bill Nelligan, Shawn Nau, Karla Diskl, Joe Keck, Roy Horvath, Dan Noonan

C. Governor's Office

Susan Kirkpatrick, Mark Cavanaugh, Kyle Miller, Chris Smith, Myung Oak Kim, Maranda Pleau Linda Gallegos

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Introduction

Gary Linn, Dean of the Fort Lewis College School of Business Administration welcomed the Board.

B. Staff Update

Brenda Morrison has been retained as a part-time contractor Grant Coordinator for the Recovery Team. She will provide assistance to those who are interested in applying for grants (stimulus related). Her email address is posted on Colorado.gov/recovery.

Chris Smith will be in charge of reporting for the Board. The reports are due in October. He will ensure that the State's reporting requirements are in compliance.

C. State Priority on Broadband Grants

The State had its first Broadband outreach meeting on July 2nd. It allowed the State to share its point of view on what we expect to do at the state level for Broadband applications. The State will weight our recommendation on the grants that are being applied for by the private sector against a number of criteria that were laid out in that meeting. The first applications need to be submitted by August 14th.

The State also held a similar outreach meeting on Health Information Technology.

D. Report by Susan Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of the state Department of Local Affairs about funds going to rural communities

DOLA's tagline is strengthening Colorado communities. Two out of three of their programmatic areas are involved with Recovery Act Programs: the Division of Housing and the Division of Local Government. There are 4 programs that they are administering: Community Development Block Grant Program, Community Services Block Grant, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program II.

A PowerPoint Presentation that was shown at this meeting can be found at Colorado.gov/recovery under Accountability Board/Meeting Information.

E. Report by Troy Ralstin, Executive Director of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, about Tribal grants

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe encompasses the corner of Colorado, and parts of Utah and New Mexico. The main seat is located in Colorado. In applying for ARRA funds, they deal primarily with the federal government, specifically the Department of the Interior, and minimally with the State, counties and the cities. They've applied for approximately 20 grants totaling \$20-30 million dollars. Three that have been denied include two that were with the Department of Energy; weatherization and energy efficiency. The third one that was denied was for a HUD program to build housing. Due to the trust status of the land it is very difficult for individuals to construct new housing.

They did receive four funding grants. These include the Workforce Investment Act for \$37,000 to supplement summer youth work programs for children aged 16 and up. They will be working in tribal government and other entities to gain job experience. Another was for \$67,000 from the Administration for Children and Families that will support childcare provider services for families on the reservation. A third grant they received which was also from the Administration for Children and Families was for the Head Start program. They received \$29,000 which will be used for the three part-time teacher aide programs. The largest grant they received was for \$900,000 from the EPA for the renovation construction of two wastewater treatment plants on the reservation. This should provide for approximately 25 construction jobs.

Other fund requests include adding more law enforcement officers, increasing services for victims of domestic violence, and expanding the public safety/Fire EMS building.

F. Reports by the National Park Service (Mesa Verde National Park) and the Bureau of Land Management/U.S. Forest Service who are administering grants in the Durango area, Bill Dunkelberger from the U.S. Forest Service and Bill Nelligan from National Park Service presented.

In Colorado, The U.S. Forest Service/BLM manages 2.5 million acres of public lands over 7 different counties. Locally, the National Forest Service received \$11 million in ARRA funding, while BLM received \$3 million dollars. The BLM projects included habitat improvement and restoration and reconstruction of existing structures (specifically maintenance, repair and energy efficiency).

The U.S. Forest Service projects included funding going towards the Veteran Green Jobs project .This partnership recruits retraining armed forces veterans who want to purse a career in natural resources and conservation. Additional funding went to road maintenance, recreation site repairs (picnic areas, boat ramps, and campgrounds), forest trails/ bridge maintenance and restoration of historic and prehistoric cultural buildings.

The National Park Service currently has ARRA related projects totaling \$24.6 million dollars. Those projects include road repair, a new waterline for the park and smaller projects related to maintenance issues in the park.

Handouts for these presentations that include ARRA approved projects can be found at Colorado.gov/recovery under Accountability Board/Meeting Information.

G. Local Workforce Center Presentation by Dawn Farrington, Project Director for The Training Advantage and Chloe Wiebe, of the Workforce Development Center

The workforce center was awarded \$162,000 to supply services for job seekers. There are three workforce centers in the Southwest region. They've spent approximately \$35,000., some of which went to hire a part-time temporary employee.

The regular allocations for the Workforce Investment programs have decreased approximately 20% from last year. The ARRA funds are used to supplement those losses. They've received \$174,000 in regular funding, and \$93,000 in additional ARRA funds. This is both operating and participant money that will be spent on training. ARRA funds are mostly earmarked specifically for training. This will work well in the metro areas, but might not as well in the rural areas because there aren't as many training providers to meet the program's intent. They also as a non-profit, operate the Native American Workforce Investment Act program with the Southern Ute Indian tribe where they received \$13,000 for the summer youth program.

They will be subcontracting with the Housing Solutions of the Southwest for their Community Services Block Grant ARRA funds. They will provide the employment and training piece of the program. They received funding for the summer youth program which currently has 35 young adults enrolled and working.

A handout for this presentation can be found at Colorado.gov/recovery under Accountability Board/Meeting Information

H. Update on Small Business/Minority Outreach efforts by Maranda Pleau

Pleau has developed a statewide plan to talk about opportunities for the Recovery Act. The plan focuses on the stakeholders. She plans to coordinate local, state and federal resources (economic development corporations, SBA representatives, local government representatives, USDA, and local citizens) and gather them to discuss resources, needs and capacity. The plan she created has four goals:

- 1. To help state agencies in their inclusion and contracting practices for minority and small businesses. This includes scheduling meetings in each county with the individual agencies to discuss outreach and other issues.
- 2. To communicate the opportunities of the Recovery Act to all citizens, businesses and government officials in Colorado
- 3. How do you facilitate the engagement? She is visiting every county in Colorado and meeting with the community groups.
- 4. Tracking is the final goal. The State needs to know where the Recovery dollars are going.

I. Public Comment

Small business owner (Architect) inquired about upcoming projects that will have a need for design; specifically smaller projects. Her firm is LEED certified and local. She wanted to encourage the hiring of local architects specifically for smaller projects.

Elliman responded that most of the construction money is going to shovel-ready projects which will result in freeing the queue for other projects.

Hernandez asked for the woman's contact information and offered to speak with her about how DOLA funding to local governments can assist her.

J. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20th at the Anschutz Medical Center in Aurora Colorado. With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.